

Spring 5-2020

## Library Connection, v7n2, Spring 2020

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## THERESA WESTBROCK NAMED NEW DEAN OF LIBRARY SERVICES

Welcome to the new Dean of Library Services, Theresa Westbrook! Former Associate University Librarian of the Learning and Research Division, Theresa Westbrook, began her new role as Dean of Library Services on March 2, 2020.

Before joining the Panther family in 2017, Dean Westbrook previously worked as Instructional Coordinator and Interim Reference Coordinator at New Mexico State University for nine years. Theresa holds a Masters in Library and Information Science and a Bachelor's degree in English from Wayne State University.

When asked about Dean Westbrook and her new role here, Angela Pratesi, Interim Associate University Librarian of Learning and Research, had many noteworthy things to say. According to Pratesi, *"Dean Westbrook has strong leadership and communication skills. In her two and half years at UNI, she has forged relationships across campus that have elevated the library's ability to respond to the needs of our community of learners. She has a deep and abiding commitment to students and their success. We are lucky to have her as the Dean of Library Services."*

Even though she was not expecting to start a new role during a pandemic, she has handled this challenge with extraordinary grace and professionalism. Dean Westbrook shared some initial thoughts, *"It has been an interesting time to step into this new role. The global pandemic has put everyone to the test, and I think that Rod Library has done an amazing job of adjusting services, anticipating students' needs, and coming up with creative solutions. I am proud to be surrounded by such dedicated and resilient colleagues."*

Although the start of Dean Westbrook's role as Dean of Library Services was challenging, her dedication to serving the students at UNI is unwavering. Dean Westbrook shared encouraging words, *"As I look to the future and shift from a reactive mindset toward a planning mindset, **I am excited to continue expanding our support for students and faculty through our collections, innovative services and programming, and collaboration within courses and curriculum.** The future certainly looks a lot different than it did a few months ago, but I'm confident that we have the right team in place to chart this new course."* Under her direction, Rod Library will continue to support all students, faculty, and staff at UNI.





## RESPONDING TO COVID-19 #UNITOGETHER

Spring 2020 has undoubtedly been out of the norm for everyone. With COVID-19 spreading in the United States, the University of Northern Iowa transitioned in-person courses to an online environment, beginning after Spring Break, to ensure the safety of UNI students, faculty and staff. Rod Library responded to the changing environment by adapting our services to support students and faculty remotely. Here are some of the many ways Rod Library supported faculty and students during the pandemic.

- Met students and faculty where they were virtually through online chat services, phone, and email support, and Zoom one-on-one research consultations with librarians
- Created a remote resources guide offering robust access to library resources and services ([guides.lib.uni.edu/remote](https://guides.lib.uni.edu/remote))
- Processed new library materials to support coursework
- Offered curbside pickup service for IRTS and library materials through late March
- Interlibrary loans of physical items occurred through March; they continue to deliver requests for materials that can be transmitted electronically
- Increased options for streaming videos and access to ebooks to support online courses



**Curbside Pickup of Library and IRTS Materials**



**Rod Library Continues to be Open Online**

- Expanded access to Naxos Music Library to provide high-quality music recordings for students studying in this area and removed restrictions on numbers of simultaneous users
- Shifted UNI Museum's "Intro to Museum Studies" to an online course, utilizing digital resources and Zoom class sessions
- Provided laptops to IT for long-term check out to students in online classes
- Extended loan periods for all materials and equipment and waived fines
- Supported the 85% of our student employees who chose to work remotely
- Special Collections & University Archives digitized requested materials and held Zoom research consultations with students in classes
- Digital Scholarship Unit worked with the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences to move their INSPIRE Student Research and Engagement Conference to an online showcase in UNI ScholarWorks

Rod Library faculty and staff have also had to adjust to working from home, collaborating and communicating in the virtual environment. We, along with the rest of the world, are adapting to this new reality, as COVID-19 changes sometimes occur daily. During an unpredictable time, our community has come together to face this time of uncertainty as a #UNItogether Panther family.

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT: SARAH FLUEGEL

Rod Library has amazing student employees who assist with a variety of tasks, both working with the public and with some of the internal processes of the library.

Fifth-year senior Sarah Fluegel has worked as a student assistant in the Resource Management Unit (RMU), a behind-the-scenes unit, for the last two years. Sarah spends most of her time in the Mail Room organizing mail, entering new periodicals in the ALMA system, and mending books.

**She will be graduating this May with a degree in Graphic Design and English.** Her career goal is to land a graphic design position at an academic library. The skills and knowledge she gained during her time working at Rod Library reinforced her career choice.

As Rod Library has transitioned to online, Sarah admires the lengths faculty and staff have gone to ensure students still have their jobs. She said, *"Even though working online is different from what I am used to, I think teleworking has benefited me in the long run. I appreciate that I can still work online while I am away*



***"I am grateful for the effort the staff has gone through to make sure we are can keep some stability in our lives" - UNI student, Sarah Fluegel***

*from campus. I am grateful for the effort the staff has gone through to make sure we can keep some stability in our lives."* Like many seniors, Sarah expressed the loss of not being able to say goodbye, in-person, to those who have impacted her life over the last five years. However, she does plan to return to campus and walk across the stage at a future UNI commencement ceremony.

One of Sarah's supervisors at the library, Jackie Williams, said, ***"Sarah will go far in the pursuit of her career goals. She has been one of the hardest working students we have had the privilege to employ in RMU! We are certainly going to miss her."***

Rod Library faculty and staff congratulate Sarah on her upcoming graduation from the University of Northern Iowa; we cannot wait to see what the future holds for her.



**Congratulations to the UNI graduating students!**  
**Accomplishing great things through dedication and hard work in the face of uncertainty is inspiring. #PantherStrong**  
**#PurpleisGold**

## NEW SPRING 2020



**NEW FOR CHECKOUT**  
**OPTELEC TRAVELLER HD**  
**MOBILE MAGNIFIER**

## SAVE THE DATE



**AUTHOR VISIT**  
**GABBY RIVERA**  
**TUESDAY,**  
**APRIL 6, 2021**

**RODCON 2021**  
**SATURDAY,**  
**APRIL 10, 2021**